(a) the details of the political parties and their student wings which have filed income tax return during last three years, year-wise and party-wise; and

(b) the details of donations/ contributions received from public sector organizations during the said period, year-wise, party-wise and organization-wise alongwith the head and entitlement clause under which such disbursements and donations were made, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Centralised data in respect of details of the political parties and their student wings which have filed income tax return during last three years, year-wise and party-wise is not maintained by the Government. The information is being collected from the field formations spread all over the country and to the extent possible shall be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Political parties are required under the Income Tax Act 1961, only to maintain the details of voluntary contributions above Rs.20,000/- received by them. However, there is no requirement for them to file the details of these contributions with their returns of income. Such details can be obtained only if a case is taken for detailed scrutiny. It is therefore not possible to furnish the information in respect of para (b).

Rolling back subsidy

2790. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is going to roll back subsidies in different sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof, sector-wise;

(c) whether Government is aware about the impact of it on common people of the country; and

(d) if so, the plan of Government to protect the interest of the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) Having regard to the needs of poorer sections, the levels of prices and the subsidy outgo, some specific announcements relating to major budgetary subsidies were indicated in the Budget for 2009-10, which included: National Food Security Act with the objective of providing every family living below the poverty line in rural or urban areas an entitlement of 25 kilos of rice or wheat per month at Rs.3 a kilo; the intention to move towards a nutrient based fertilizer subsidy regime and the intention of the Government to set up an expert group to advise on a viable and sustainable system of pricing of petroleum products. The above has not yet been operationalised.

Development of National Consumer Price Index

2791. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to revamp the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) based inflation to bridge the gap between the index and ground reality;

(b) if so, whether several economists have urged Government to develop a National Consumer Price Index as an alternative to WPI; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Based on the recommendations of a Working Group, Government has initiated process for revising the base year of WPI from 1993-94 to 2004-05, together with an enlargement of the commodity basket to better reflect the structural changes that have taken place in the economy.

(b) and (c) As recommended by the National Statistical Commission, the Central Statistical Organization, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has taken steps to compile Consumer Price Index (CPI) numbers separately for urban and rural population considering all sections of the population. Further, it has also been decided to bring the national CPI by merging CPI (Urban) and CPI (Rural) with appropriate weights, as derived from the National Sample Survey (NSS) 61st round of Consumer Expenditure Survey (2004-05) data.

Expenditure on social security

2792. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the total combined expenditure of Central and State Governments on social services in 2008-09 was 6.72 per cent of GDP at current prices or Rupees 257 per person per month;

(b) if so, whether it is low when compared to what some of the western countries, namely Germany, France, UK and US, who spend 25, 23, 13, 12 per cent of their GDP; and

(c) whether the Central Government expenditure on social services has hardly any impact on overall poverty reduction and improvement in the social security net as the BPL category consist 27 per cent of the total population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Total combined expenditure of Central and State Governments on social services in 2008-09 (B.E.) was 6.72 per cent of GDP at current market prices. This is roughly equivalent to Rs. 257 per month per person. Social services include, education; art and culture; medical and public health; family welfare; water supply and sanitation; housing; urban development; welfare of SCs, STs and OBCs; labour and labour welfare; social security and welfare nutrition; relief on account of natural calamities etc.